

Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)
Assistive Technology (AT) Committee Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2020

Members Present

Bea Shapiro, Chair
Sue LeHew
Terri Hedgpeth
Mark Nelson

Members Absent

Ed Gervasoni
Nathan Pullen

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers

Guests Present

Bob Kresmer

Call to Order and Introductions

Bea Shapiro, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:07 pm in the RSA Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

Approval of January 15, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Terri Hedgpeth motioned to approve the January 15, 2020 meeting minutes. Sue LeHew seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

AT Trends

Mark Nelson stated he attended a two-day workshop through the AITVI, and was able to review the new Chromebook, which had improved considerably. Mark Nelson stated that prompted him to review Google docs and Gmail further. Sue LeHew stated that most Department of Economic Security (DES) employees struggled with Gmail and noted that individuals could not use one device for email and one device for other applications. Mark Nelson stated there was a keystroke that would display all the Chromebox keystrokes. Bea Shapiro stated that a blind engineer had added Google

maps to a new Laser Cane to detect obstacles. Terri Hedgpeth stated her understanding that the Laser Cane was working well. Bob Kremer inquired whether a new iPhone would be released with the Home button. Terri Hedgpeth stated the new iPhone would have a Home button and noted the phone would be similar to size of the iPhone 8.

AT Committee Collaboration with Education Committee

Bea Shapiro stated the AT Committee would assist the Education Committee to provide training for the Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments (TVI). Bea Shapiro stated the AT Committee had come up with some ideas for training teachers that worked with blind and visually impaired students. Bob Kresmer inquired whether Terri Hedgpeth was on the Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE) Board, and whether the Board planned to hold a two-day event again. Terri Hedgpeth stated the VRATE Board decided to go back to a one-day event. Bob Kresmer stated that if VRATE would be scheduled for two days, the AT Committee could consider holding a TVI training during one of VRATE event days. Terri Hedgpeth stated that TVIs did not typically attend VRATE on Saturdays. Sue LeHew stated the AT Committee could hold a TVI training in the Training Rooms at the 51st office, which would accommodate 100 individuals. Ms. LeHew noted the committee would need to locate a list of the TVIs. Bea Shapiro suggested the AT Committee reach out to the TVIs to obtain an idea of the information they would like to learn. Ms. Shapiro stated the committee could offer a series of workshops that discussed basic AT and other topics in order to keep the interest of the attendees. Bob Kresmer stated that several years prior, the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and Blind (ASDB) offered a three-day AT training at the ASDB campus for TVIs and offered training on AT such as low vision technology, Braille, and JAWS. Mr. Kresmer stated that ASDB recently held one-day training, and the TVIs that attended indicated that they enjoyed the training, although they did not learn about all the updated technologies. Sue LeHew stated the committee could consider holding several trainings over a school year that were focused on Beginner or Intermediate skills. Terri Hedgpeth agreed the committee could hold several one-day trainings but stated the committee would benefit from knowing what type of information the TVIs needed. Sue LeHew stated that TVIs could bring technology to the training, and they could be shown how to use the equipment. Mark Nelson agreed the committee should identify the information the TVIs needed before planning the training.

Terri Hedgpeth stated the committee could offer several one-day trainings that would meet the needs of beginner and advanced teachers. Ms. Hedgpeth inquired whether the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) was still active. Bob Kresmer

stated the AER maintained meetings and list serves to members. Terri Hedgpeth stated the committee could distribute a survey to the AER members to gather input regarding a TVI training. Mark Nelson stated the committee could also send a survey to the Arizona Itinerant Teachers of the Visually Impaired (AITVI) members. Bob Kresmer stated the committee should consider being sponsored by the GCBVI and the ASDB, which would potentially provide a small grant for providing the training. Mark Nelson stated the committee could send surveys through Survey Monkey. Bob Kresmer stated the survey could be distributed by the ASDB co-operatives and the school districts that were independent of the co-operatives. Terri Hedgpeth suggested the committee send the surveys to AER and AITVI members, although the committee might not have success obtaining information from the school districts. Bea Shapiro stated she would not want to leave out anyone that would be interested in the training. Terri Hedgpeth suggested the committee gather enough input from the large group of TVIs to identify the type of information they were interested in. Bob Kresmer stated that once the committee had developed a training curriculum, the committee could reach out to the school districts.

Bob Kresmer inquired who would conduct the trainings. Mark Nelson stated that teachers preferred to learn from other teachers. Terri Hedgpeth stated the surveys would help to identify the information the TVIs were interested in, which would indicate the teacher with that knowledge. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the committee would distribute the surveys before the end of the school year. Terri Hedgpeth suggested the committee distribute the surveys in the Spring and plan the trainings for the next school year. Bea Shapiro stated the committee could plan to distribute the surveys in April. Bob Kresmer inquired regarding the content of the surveys. Terri Hedgpeth stated that people were more inclined to complete a survey with 6-8 questions, with not too many open-ended questions. Bea Shapiro stated the surveys could include questions regarding Low Vision equipment and AT for blind students. Bob Kresmer inquired whether there would be some days that would be better for teachers to attend a training. Bea Shapiro stated the committee could use the Video Conference Rooms, which would allow TVIs to attend the training at several different sites. Terri Hedgpeth suggested the first training be in person, and that subsequent trainings could potentially be through the Video Conference sites. Bea Shapiro inquired who handled reservations for the Training Rooms. Sue LeHew stated that Patty Thompson would handle reserving the Training Rooms, and the individual providing the training would set up the room. Sue LeHew stated the Training Rooms would accommodate 100 individuals. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the room could be set up with portable walls to separate different areas. Bea Shapiro stated the Training Rooms could be open as one large room, or as two different rooms. Terri Hedgpeth inquired

regarding the time of the training. Sue LeHew suggested the training be from 8:30 or 9:00 – 4:00 to allow individuals time to travel to the training. Bob Kresmer stated the committee could inquire whether AER could offer Continuing Education Units (CEU) s to TVIs to encourage attendance.

Terri Hedgpeth stated she would develop a draft survey and submit to the committee members for review. Sue LeHew stated the committee could also distribute the surveys to the Special Education Directors, to acquaint them with the issues. Mark Nelson stated the Special Education Directors would be able to authorize purchasing of the AT for the school districts. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the committee needed to consider anything else when planning the training. Mark Nelson stated the surveys would likely identify anything the committee had not thought of. Bob Kresmer stated he would contact the ASDB Superintendent regarding the potential for obtaining a small budget for offering the training. Sue LeHew stated that TVIs could bring their own technology and potentially take a Pre-test prior to the training. Terri Hedgpeth stated if there were training sessions running, she was unsure whether individuals would test their knowledge unless the testing was separate. Sue LeHew stated the committee could use the Computer Training Room to offer testing. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the committee would request that AT vendors provide the equipment. Bea Shapiro stated that vendors would have the newest technology. Terri Hedgpeth stated the surveys would help to identify the vendors or AT the TVIs were interested in learning about. Mark Nelson noted that an individual needed to be an AER member to have access to their list serves. Bob Kresmer stated he would distribute the surveys to AER and AITVI. Sue LeHew stated the committee could develop a survey and submit to the RSA Data Unit, which would put the survey into Survey Monkey. Bob Kresmer stated the committee could also consider whether to invite an individual to be a guest speaker prior to the training. Terri Hedgpeth stated that she could develop a survey by the end of the next week and inquired whether committee members could review the survey within a week. Bea Shapiro stated the committee could send out the surveys by the end of March. Terri Hedgpeth suggested the surveys be distributed by the beginning or middle of April, which would allow the committee time to identify the list serves. Bea Shapiro agreed and stated the committee could discuss the survey at the next AT Committee meeting.

Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Assistive Technology Committee was scheduled for March 18, 2020 from 3:00-4:00 pm in the RSA Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Agenda items are as follows:

- AT Trends

- TVI Training Discussion

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Public Comment

A call was made to the public with no comments forthcoming.

Adjournment of Meeting

Mark Nelson motioned to adjourn the meeting. Sue LeHew seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm.